MAY 11 2004 14:52 FR GE CORPORATE R-D

5183877751 TO 817038729306

RD-29276-1

Serial No.: 10/036,877 Amdt. Dated: May 11, 2004

Reply to Office action of March 12, 2004.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: James Manio Silva

: Group Art Unit: 1724

Application No. 10/036,877

: Examiner: Cintins, Ivars C

Filed: January 4th 2002

: Response to Paper No.

For: Method for Purifying Brine

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir,

In response to the Office Action mailed March 12, 2004 please consider the following amendments and remarks. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 27-29. The Applicants request that claims 6, 10 and 19 be amended as shown in the listing of the claims. Claims 1-26 are pending in this application.

Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.